



**For Immediate Release  
January 18, 2006**

**Contact: Vanessa Gulati, 617-626-1119  
Kevin Mooney, 617-719-2186**

**REPAIR OF M STREET SEAWALL IN SOUTH BOSTON  
TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 23**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced today that repairs to a section of the M Street Seawall in South Boston will begin Monday, January 23, 2006. DCR engineers determined that 494 feet of the seawall must be replaced because of damage caused by recent storms. The contract for the work has been awarded to the Lorusso Corporation of Plainville, Mass.

Once a public safety risk was identified, DCR quickly developed an Emergency Action Plan, which provides for the construction of a temporary cofferdam about 40 feet in front of the seawall. Engineers also have a contingency strategy for reinforcing the cofferdam in the event of a breach. The cofferdam will be constructed from 23,000 cubic yards of beach sand which will be reshaped into a new beach upon completion of repair work on the seawall itself.

“DCR has responded rapidly to this new emergency,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “The repairs we will undertake are absolutely necessary to ensure the structural integrity of the seawall. They are also proactive, inasmuch as they will reduce long-term erosion, greatly lessening the possibility of a major seawall breach.”

To cope with the additional traffic that construction will create, DCR will work with the Massachusetts State Police to develop a traffic control plan. It has already been determined that trucks will be restricted to Day Boulevard and the Columbia Road rotary off I-93.

These emergency repairs represent Phase I of the process, with all in-water work expected to be completed by February 15, 2006. Phase II will begin in March. This phase will include repairs to the Hicks Park bulkhead, the reshaping of the cofferdam to create a new beach, and most importantly, reconstruction of the seawall. Other improvements to Hicks Park will be made, including tree plantings, new loam and grass seed, and new lights. Phase II is projected to be completed by November 15, 2006.

Additionally, a second public meeting on the M Street Seawall Repair Project will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at the Curley Community Center, 1663 Columbia Road, South Boston (attendees should use the M Street entrance). For additional information, call 617-626-4973 or email [Mass.Parks@state.ma.us](mailto:Mass.Parks@state.ma.us).

###

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston MA 02114-2119  
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax  
[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)



Mitt Romney  
Governor

Kerry Healey  
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation